



# The Wildcat Monthly



## NOVEMBER 2016

This publication highlights the monthly activities and events that take place on campus and across the state.



## NOVEMBER, 2016

1	Tuesday	SBDM Meeting, 4 PM
4/5	Fri/Sat	Varsity Goalball NCASB Conference Championships: St. Louis, MO
	Fri/Sat	KSB/VIPS Family Conference and Retreat, KSB
7/8	Mon/Tues	No School for KSB (Election Day)
11	Friday	Low Vision Clinic, KSB (FULL)
16	Wednesday	Envisioning Day, Ashland
17	Thursday	KSB Fall Concert, 6:30 PM
18	Friday	Braille/Low Vision Carnival, Grades K-5, KSB
21-25	Mon-Fri	No School for KSB (Thanksgiving)

## DECEMBER, 2016

2/3	Fri/Sat	Varsity Wrestling Meet: Nashville, TN
9/10	Fri/Sat	Low Vision Clinic, Paducah
14	Wednesday	Varsity Wrestling and Cheerleading Meet: Columbus, OH
16	Friday	Christmas Music Program, 10:30 AM
19- Jan2		No School for KSB (Winter Break)

## T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



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T Shirt - \$10.00, Long Sleeve T - \$12.00, Sweat Shirts - \$15.00 and Hoodies - \$20.00. SIZES: S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL. Orders are due by Nov14. Please make any checks payable to Brian Mullins. Return order to Bo Mullins



KSB is selling White Cane Day T-shirts. Please let Denise Gill know if you are interested in purchasing. S-XL is \$10 and XXL and up is \$12. Please email Denise if you are interested at [denise.gill@ksb.kyschools.us](mailto:denise.gill@ksb.kyschools.us).

## NOTE FOR PARENTS



If your child will be absent, please notify Denise Gill by 7:30 AM. (502) 897-1583 ext, 7202 or [denise.gill@ksb.kyschools.us](mailto:denise.gill@ksb.kyschools.us). If there is no answer, please leave a message.

Please send an absentee note with your child when he or she returns to school. Thank you.

## ATHLETICS

### Goalball

November 4-5, 2016 Annual NCASB Conference Championships, St. Louis, MO

March 8, 2017 Annual Little NC's Goalball Championships, Louisville, KY

### Wrestling & Cheerleading

December 2-3, 2016 Tennessee Invitational, Nashville, TN

December 14, 2016 Ohio Invitational Day Meet, Columbus, OH

January 18, 2017 Indiana Invitational Day Meet, Indianapolis, IN

January 27-28, 2017, Annual NCASB Conference Championships, Louisville, KY

March 8, 2017 Annual Little NC's Wrestling and Cheerleading Championships, Louisville, KY

### Swimming & Forensics

March 8, 2017 Annual Little NC's Swimming Championships, Louisville, KY

March 15, 2017 Ohio Swim Clinic/Invitational, Columbus, OH

April 12, 2017 Indiana Invitational Day Meet, Indianapolis, IN

April 28-29, 2017 Annual NCASB Conference Championships, Columbus, OH

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Juniors Shane Lowe and Jacob Hack were inducted into the National Honors Society on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Central High School.

Shane Lowe was recently named to the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council. The group met in Frankfort on Oct 27. The purpose of the council is to provide valuable feedback from Kentucky students and to engage student leaders in learning by doing. This group will meet with the commissioner and Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting public school students and provide feedback – from a student perspective – on critical issues impacting students and schools.



## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

*Tabathia Roark, Arts and Humanities Teacher*

Students in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> period Arts and Humanities classes made wonderful Punch and Judy puppets with our first guest artist in residence for the school year, Michelle Amos. To create the head, they used a traditional papier-mâché technique, then painted the heads, and added their own special features such as eyes, noses, mouths, and hair. Bodies were decorated and colored to match the head. As a final step, the puppet heads were then attached to the bodies. A big thank you goes out to the students and Michelle for their awesome creations. They are so creative and will definitely be a great addition to our elementary bridge!

*Photo: A small sampling of the Punch and Judy puppets that have been created in art during the last few weeks*



## BOYSCOUTS

*Stephanie McDonald*

This year KSB cubs, scouts, and crew will be doing a lot of hands on activities. There are a few items we need to make this happen. There is no need to go out and buy these items, but if you have them to donate, we will appreciate the help.

Items include: old candles; old tin coffee cans; acrylic paint or wood paint; sand paper; mason jars; stickers

There will be a scout box in the lobby of Evans hall for any donated supplies.



## INSIGHTS ART COMPETITION



*Photo at left: Willie Barksdale stands in front of his painting entitled "Alicia" at the American Printing House for the Blind Annual Meeting.*

Eleventh grader, Willie Barksdale, was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) InSights Art Competition 2016 for his beautiful painting entitled "Alicia." The annual APH InSights Art Competition is for artists of all ages with vision loss. Willie received second place in his age category and along with his family attended a banquet honoring all prize winners on Oct 7. CONGRATULATIONS Willie!! KSB is so proud of you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The 43rd convention of the Kentucky Council of the Blind will be held Nov 11 and 12 at the Ramada Inn North, 1041 Zorn Avenue in Louisville. KCB conventions are packed with information, exhibits, food and fun and friends, and we invite everyone to share the weekend with us.

Pre-register by November 9 and save money; fees and tickets are discounted when you pre-register. If you have not received hardcopy information and you would like large print or audio CD, please call us at 502-895-4598.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KEDC)

*By: Pamela Howard, Outreach Consultant*



*Photos – students participate in a scavenger hunt at the Kyova Mall in Ashland, KY*

Students from within the KEDC Special Education Cooperative attended a National White Cane Day – Blindness/Visual Impairment Awareness event at the KYOVA Mall in Ashland on Oct.

14. Sponsors for this event included: CALEBS, KSB,





KYOVA Mall, KEDC, and Office for the Blind. Students enjoyed a theatre experience that included learning where to sit in a theatre based on individual visual needs, using low vision devices to access the movie clearly and using Personal Descriptive Narration devices.



*In photos above students experience audio descriptions at a movie theater.*

They also explored and enjoyed the Trampoline Park. Most students had never experienced a trampoline before. Even students with the most complex needs were able to transfer out of wheelchairs to partake in this experience. Lunch was provided by CALEBS volunteers. Mike Freholm, NFB, spoke with students regarding advocacy and independence. The day ended with students participating in a group scavenger hunt in which they had to physically locate items within the mall and take selfie pictures with the requested items. Students were able to utilize and practice many of the unique skills related to blindness/visual impairments.

## **SOUTHEAST/SOUTHCENTRAL EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE (SESC)**

*By: Gina Quaid, Outreach Consultant*

**Photo at right, sign welcoming White Cane Day participants to Hillview Stables**

Oct 19 was White Cane Day at Hillview Stables in London for the SESC region. Students, families, teachers, and assistants were able to enjoy a beautiful fall day at the pumpkin patch. Activities included a hike through a corn maze, a petting zoo, the playground, and a hayride to the pumpkin patch. Students enjoyed lunch in the horse stable. Participants were able to leave with a pumpkin and a small bag of White Cane Autumn trail mix: white chocolate pretzel stick (white canes), M&M gravel, candy corn, candy pumpkins, animal crackers and frosted mini wheat hay bales. Information about the Family Conference, Braille Low-Vision Carnival, KSB Short Term Program, the Smart Brailier, Portage and the Braille Touch were provided to the families, students, and teachers.



## **CENTRAL KY EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE (CKEC)**

*By: Nancy Nichols, Outreach Consultant*

*“You are a product of your environment, surround yourself with the best.”*



*Above photo: CKEC teachers of the visually impaired, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, special educators, and paraprofessionals at the CVI Conference with Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy and Dr. Terry Schwartz*

A visual deficit, in particular cortical visual impairment (CVI), can have a significant impact on the young child and student, influencing participation in school, home and community. Children with physical disabilities face even greater challenges. This conference discusses the latest knowledge and practical approaches for identifying, assessing and providing best practice interventions for CVI and offers an opportunity for discussion and hands-on learning among those working with this group of children.

#### **About the Keynote Speaker:**

**Dr. Roman-Lantzy** is a teacher of visually impaired students, certified orientation and mobility specialist and infant developmental specialist. She has lectured extensively regarding the CVI educational materials she has developed. These materials include: The CVI Range, an assessment of functional vision, and The CVI Resolution Chart & CVI/O&M Resolution Chart used to plot and monitor progress. She is the author of *CVI—An Approach to Assessment & Intervention*.

#### **WESTERN KY EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE**

*By Robbin Cox, Outreach Consultant*



*Above photos: Kim Mills of Morganfield is making a mat frame to use with students diagnosed with CVI. Terri George of Marshall County is cutting out yellow dots for a CVI booklet.*



At their September Professional Learning Community meeting, western KY TVIs had a session on CVI strategies. Robbin Cox and Nona Walker presented CVI strategies based on Diane Sheline's training they both attended in December, 2015. Strategies were given for the 3 levels in the areas of environmental and sensory input, near/middle/distance viewing, visual target, spatial window of visual attention or visual array, contrast, preferred visual field, lighting, and familiarity. Examples of items or toys to use were displayed for each level. The teachers then made the following items for their own CVI kits: Brown Bear book, Illumi-light, Glitter tube, Yellow Dot book, Clifford Dog Complexity book, and black mat frame.

*Photos left to right: Rick Ricks, Robbin Cox, Dr. Barbara Bowers - Family learning about student services at KSB*



The Kentucky Office for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Blind Outreach hosted our first annual White Cane Event on October 17, 2016 at Baptist Health Paducah Heart Center.

Our distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Barbara Bowers, shared exciting news about the cutting edge advancements in the vision world. The presentation included an in depth look at the Argus II Retinal implant (the BIONIC EYE), which is video camera images that are transformed into electronic data by the VPU that sends signals to a wireless receiver implanted in the eye. The electrodes allow the electronic signals to bypass the damaged retina and transmit directly to the brain, where they are interpreted as visual images.

The 2016 White Cane Award was presented to Dr. Barbara Bowers. Dr. Bowers was the first surgeon in Kentucky to offer Bladeless Laser Cataract Surgery. Dr. Bowers' practices at the office of INNOVATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY, which includes the office of the PADUCAH LASIK CENTER. The Paducah Lasik Center was Western Kentucky's first permanent Bladeless Lasik suite allowing patients the convenience of having the evaluation, the testing and the surgical procedure in one location. Dr. Bowers gives the gift of sight to many in our region and assists Dr. Rand Paul in offering cataract surgery to patients in western Kentucky at no cost.

The 2016 Vision Award was presented to Mason Buckingham. This award recognizes a student with a visual impairment that contributes to his/her community. Mason was an outstanding first recipient. He is a student at McCracken County High School who volunteers regularly at the Community Kitchen and Hope Unlimited. In 2016 Mason attended the INSIGHT college preparation Program at Morehead State University, worked for a local employer in a summer work program, and participated in all the iTeam events. His spirit will enable him to rise above all things in his quest to become independent and experience life to its fullness.



We extend a special thanks to Outback Steakhouse, Texas Roadhouse, Chick-Fil-A, KY School for the Blind Charitable Foundation and Baptist Health Paducah for the excellent refreshments served for this event.

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Our VISION is Stronger TOGETHER.

November 15<sup>th</sup> - 5pm-7pm



**iTeam**

*Night Travel*

Let's take the *Fright* out of the *Night!*

**Downtown After Dark** - All low vision students are invited to this event.

Students, please listen carefully. You are about to experience an amazing **NIGHT**. You will be surprised at what you can find lurking among the streets after dark. There may even be some goodies that could be found! Ready or Not, here we come!

We will meet at the Kentucky Career Center – Kentucky Office for the Blind in the Conference room and the O&M instructors will depart with their groups and the parents will remain for a meeting.

Please fill out the enclosed registration sheet for the White Cane Dinner and iTeam events. It is extremely important that your registration be received by October 5, 2016, late registration can't be guaranteed. If you have any questions, please call 270-575-7315 or email [jeana.sutton@ky.gov](mailto:jeana.sutton@ky.gov).

**LOUISVILLE STORY PROJECT**



*Photo at above: Seven Louisville Story authors*

*Press Release:*

LOUISVILLE STORY PROGRAM PUBLISHES GROUND BREAKING ANTHOLOGY AUTHORED  
BY BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED KENTUCKY TEENS

*Public book launch reception to be held at historic Clifton Center*

Louisville, Kentucky. October 17th

The public is invited to attend the book launch celebration for Louisville Story Program's newest book, *We Can Hear You Just Fine: Clarifications from the Kentucky School for the Blind* on November the 10<sup>th</sup> at the Clifton Center. This free, public event will include brief addresses of congratulation from community leaders and other LSP supporters, and will feature each of the book's seven authors reading passages from their chapters and signing books afterwards. Doors open at 6:15PM and the program will begin at 7.

Through the 2015-16 academic year, LSP led a college-level, creative nonfiction workshop for seven student authors who read great literature, considered elements of craft in the writing of memoir and essay, and learned the value of oral history interview in community building. Working into the summer months, they wrote multiple drafts and revisions to sculpt chapters of powerful, relatable, personal narrative and engaging oral history. The result is a ground-breaking anthology of nonfiction, the first of its kind ever published.



The essays in *We Can Hear You Just Fine* offer vivid, incisive and illuminating portraits of the authors' lives and cover a range of topics: the travails and triumphs of visual impairment, the difficulties of marginalization, the decision to leave home for the Kentucky School for the Blind, learning to live with schizoaffective disorder, the rapid life changes attending pregnancy and childbirth, pastoral recollections of rural communities, an autodidact's path to producing his own internet radio show, and the relief of finding community and achieving independence. Their book highlights the particularities of their lives, but also serves as a poignant reminder that the desire for acceptance and dignity, and the drive to succeed and make meaning in the world, are common to all of us.

The Louisville Story Program is a non-profit that partners closely with overlooked Louisville residents to provide writing and oral history workshops that culminate in professionally-designed books, exhibits, and radio programs in which the authors tell the stories of their lives and communities in their own words.

Individual, community, and grant funding from the Kentucky Arts Council, the Snowy Owl Foundation, the Arthur K. Smith Family Foundation, the KSB Charitable Foundation, Brown-Forman, and the Gilbert Foundation have supported the book's national release in regular print. Simultaneous release of large print, and braille editions of the book are made possible by a partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind.

*Sneak Peak:* <http://louisvillestoryprogram.org/projects/more-than-what-you-see-dispatches-from-the-kentucky-school-for-the-blind/gallery>

Three of KSB student authors appeared on WHAS 11 Great Day Live on Thurs., Oct. 27. They were with Louisville Story Program Deputy Director Joseph Manning to promote their book *We Can Hear You Just Fine*. You can see the interview at <http://www.whas11.com/entertainment/television/great-day-live/school-for-the-blind-students-to-publishwe-can-hear-you-just-fine/343200035>

**Kentucky School for the Blind**  
**1867 Frankfort Avenue**  
**Louisville, KY 40206**

**Phone: 502-897-1583**  
**Fax ~ Business Office: 502-897-2994**  
**Fax ~ Classroom Office: 502-897-2850**  
**Fax ~ KIMRC: 502-897-8737**  
[www.ksb.kyschools.us](http://www.ksb.kyschools.us)



**We're on Facebook! We would love for you to like our page!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/KYschoolfortheblind>



## **KSB Mission Statement:**

“The mission of the Kentucky School for the Blind is to provide comprehensive educational services to all Kentucky students who are blind and visually impaired, birth to 21.”

## **KSB Vision Statement:**

“Empowering Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Command their Future”

## **KSB Beliefs**

### ***We believe students who are blind and visually impaired...***

- ... can become college and career ready through world class instruction and services
- ... have unique needs that must be met
- ... have a right to knowledge, tools and relationships necessary to build successful lives
- ... deserve to be taught in a safe and caring environment by competent professionals
- ... are meaningful contributors to society